Complaints against Dealer Selection Board

†1615. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2667 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2001 and state:

(a) the details of enquiry made into complaints lodged by 15 Members of Parliament of various parties regarding partiality and irregularities committed in the selection procedure;

(b) the reasons for selecting a less qualified candidate in comparison to the candidate possessing qualifications higher than the norms for selection;

(c) whether MPs have levelled charges against the Chairman of the Selection Board of making some deals and accepting an amount worth lakhs of rupees;

(d) whether they have demanded enquiry into this by the CBI or some parliamentary committee; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPG shortage

1616. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any LPG shortage in the country;

(b) by when Government propose to give LPG connections to all the citizens of the country;

(c) the number of families in the urban areas which are not having LPG connection; and

(d) the number of families in the rural areas which are not having LPG connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The demand of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

LPG customers enrolled with the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are being met, by and large, in full.

(b) to (d) At present, LPG connections are available on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country. As on 1.10.2001, the LPG customer population with OMCs was about 607 lakhs in the country including about 43 lakh in rural areas.

Decision of OPEC to reduce production

1617. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of OPEC to reduce production of oil by 10 lakh tons;

(b) if so, what impact it will have on our country; and

(c) whether Government have enough stock of petroleum products to meet such exigencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As per the published reports, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in its meeting held in Vienna on 14.11.2001, decided to cut production by 1.5 million barrels per day *with effect from* 1st January 2002, subject to a firm commitment from non-OPEC oil producers to cut their production by 500,000 barrels per day. However, no official communication has been received to this effect.

(b) The decision has not so far affected the oil supplies or the prices of crude oil and petroleum products.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Registration of orders through Internet

1618. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum companies are booking orders of their customers through Internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;